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DIRECTIONS

FOR

THE PROPER EXHIBITION

OF

HORSE MEDICINES.

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OF

THE HORSE MEDICINES

PREPARED BY

JOHN PERCIVALL,

ASSISTANT VETERINARY SURGEON TO THE PROFESSOR OF
THE VETERINARY COLLEGE.

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DIRECTIONS, &c.

Purgative Balls.

PURGATIVE medicines will be found useful at the commencement of most cases of local inflammation; but where the intestines and lungs are inflamed, the use of purgatives would be imprudent and unsafe. Medicines of this class are very necessary to be given when horses return from grass into stables. While the intestines are distended with green food the animal is incapable of much labour; it is

therefore advisable to get rid of their contents by mild purgatives, and which will be found to increase the powers of digestion, improve condition, and prevent many diseases.

If due attention be paid to the horizontal position of the body of horses, and also to the immense length and circumvolutions of the intestines, it is natural to expect that the operation of purgatives must be always *slow*, nor will it be altogether free from danger, unless the *quality* and *quantity* of the medicine be scrupulously attended to. For the bile, or gall, (which is the daily purgative in all complicated animals) is of a very mild nature in horses, from there being no gall bladder; indeed, the stomach and every part of the intestines manifest that
their

their peristaltic motion is *naturally very slow*.

If, then, their action be suddenly quickened by a powerful purgative, at a time when they are much distended, the intestines cannot readily get rid of their contents, they become highly inflamed, and the horse frequently dies.

This effect is the natural consequence of an over-dose of a stimulating substance laying thirty, forty, or fifty hours, in contact with parts of irritable sensibility. And so various is the constitution of horses, nay, at times so oppositely changeable in the same animal, that some are differently acted on at different periods by the

same medicine. The dose therefore that will produce salutary effects in one horse, will in another destroy by its excess, and perhaps in a third produce no sensible effect whatever.

From these circumstances it is evident, that *no single dose of purgative medicine can be proper in all horses, or in the same horse at all times.*—The common practice is to purge horses by one dose; and I have seen many horses that have died from this cause.

On this account it is strongly recommended at the college, to divide a purgative ball into two, or three parts, one of which should be given every six and twenty hours, until it purges. By adopting this system of
 purging

purging horses, it is found that the mildest constitution is not purged too much ; and by repeating the dose the proper effect is produced *in every case, without the smallest danger* ; and, as it is the *effect* only that requires attention, whether this takes place from one, two, three, or four repetitions of the medicine, is not of the least importance to the health of the animal.

Before the horse is purged, it were advisable to feed him but very moderately on bran mashes for a day or two. A diet of this nature will rather tend to empty the bowels, and make the operation of the purgative more safe. We then recommend one third of the purgative ball to be given. Six hours after the first dose is administered, the horse should be exercised

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for two or three hours. Mashes should be continued, and the chill taken from the water. If the first dose produces no sensible effect in twenty-six hours, it should be repeated, the horse should be fed and exercised as before, and if the second does not purge, the third should be given.

When the effect is over, it is better not to give any more purgatives for four or five days. We may then begin cautiously as before ; for we are not to expect that the quantity which produced the desired effect in the first instance will always have the same effect when repeated.

It is usual to give horses neither more or less than three doses of physic.

fic. But where the horse is weakly, it is requisite to purge him only once or twice; and in other cases, where there is great plethora, four, or even five times, is not too much.

Astringent

Astringent Balls.

ASTRINGENT medicines are rarely requisite but where the stools have been too frequent and long continued of a *thin, watery consistence*. In cases of this aspect the purging should be stopped by some astringent medicine; to answer which end, one of the above-mentioned balls should be dissolved in half a pint of port wine and water, and repeated every four or six hours. Should the symptoms prove urgent, it will be requisite to give a clyster composed of one pint of port wine, three pints of warm water, and half a pound of starch.

Febrifuge

Febrifuge Balls.

MEDICINES of this description will be found highly serviceable in coughs, colds, fevers, inflammations of the lungs, and difficulty of respiration. One of them should be given every twenty-four hours.

Should they operate in producing a great flow of urine, they must be discontinued for two or three days, and then repeated as before. If the symptoms are violent, the horse should lose four or five quarts of blood.

Warm mashes should be given, and the head and neck covered by warm clothing.

It

It is also advisable to place the head over warm water for two hours, morning and evening; to introduce a rowel under the jaw, and one in the anterior part of the chest. If the breathing be very laborious, the sides of the chest should be rubbed with one ounce of spirits of turpentine every six hours.

Diuretic

Diuretic Balls.

THE exhibition of diuretics is but too frequently injudicious and ill-timed. They are usually administered in inflammations of the kidney and bladder; though in every affection of these organs they are of a very perilous and destructive tendency.

When any part becomes inflamed, it ought to be left at rest, and consequently stimulating the kidney to perform additional labour, must always increase the disease.

In grease, swelled legs, inflamed eyes, curbs, thrushes, and local inflammations, they are very useful.

One

One of them may be given every third day for a fortnight.

Note.—It has been thought advisable to divide the diuretic balls into two parts, as the gullet of some horses is too small to admit a ball of the common bulk, and many horses are destroyed from this cause.

Alterative Balls.

IN all eruptions of the skin, hide-bound, and farcy, one of these balls may be given every morning until the stools are loose,

Should they purge, they must be omitted for five or six days, and then repeated as before.

Malt mashes are very excellent in these diseases. The horse should be allowed a very nutritive diet, and moderately

derately sweated every day. Bruised carrots and parsnips are also serviceable in these diseases.

Vermifuge

Vermifuge Balls.

BEFORE medicines of this class be given the horse should be fed on bran mash for one or two days.

The same precautions are requisite to be observed in giving vermifuge balls as we have already described for purgatives. One ball is divided into three parts, and one of them should be given every twenty-six hours until they purge.

The horse should be exercised for three hours every day prior to the operation of the purgative; and after

the first effect, it will be necessary to wait about a week before the same medicines should be repeated.

Antispasmodic

Antispasmodic Balls.

THE symptoms of spasms of the intestines are well known.

The animal strikes his belly with his legs, frequently lies down, and attempts to lie on his back.

When this disease takes place, if the horse be not speedily relieved, he generally dies. But from a timely exhibition of the above-mentioned balls, I have scarcely known an instance of failure.

If the first dose does not relieve
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the symptoms, it should be repeated every four hours, until the animal is free from pain.

Four table spoonsful of common spirits of turpentine may be given at the same time in one pint of water gruel; and the same quantity of turpentine applied as an embrocation to the belly.

Blistering

Blistering Liniment.

THIS application will be found serviceable in splents, spavins, ring-bones, wind-galls, thorough pins, curbs, and enlarged tendons, (after the heat and inflammation have totally subsided).

The hair should be removed and the liniment rubbed well into the part; the blistering liniment produces a much more sudden inflammation than common blistering ointment, and we can always graduate the effect. Where only a slight discharge or perspiration is wanted (without removing the hair)

we apply about one tea spoonful of the liniment, and repeat it every day until the desired effect takes place. If a great discharge and much inflammation be wanted, four or six tea spoonsful should be employed, and repeated the next day if requisite.

Stimulating

*Stimulating Ointment to increase
the Growth of Hoof in Horses
and Oxen.*

THIS ointment will be found eminently serviceable in all cases where a rapid growth of hoof is necessary to the cure.

It is particularly applicable for contracted feet, thin soles, thin crusts, and sand cracks; and for oxen, that are frequently lame from the hoofs being liable to wear in a greater degree than they grow.

The ointment should be made moderately hot over the fire, and rubbed
well

well in with a brush. If the animal be intended to work, it should be applied only to the coronet and hoof, and repeated twice in the week; but if turned out, the whole fetlock joints may be anointed.

Should there be much swelling and inflammation of the parts, the ointment may be applied only once in a week or fortnight.

Where the hair is removed, from broken knees and other accidents, this ointment is very successfully employed, and should be repeated once in three or four days.

Astringent.

Astringent Powder to remove Grease.

BEFORE any medicines of this nature are applied, it will be necessary to poultice the heels for three or four days, and to wash them after exercise with soft soap and water.

When the inflammation has been in some degree abated by poultices, it will be requisite to dissolve the astringent powder in half a pint of warm water, and to wash the heels with this lotion twice in the day.

Diuretics

Diuretics should be given every third day, and as much walking exercise as possible.

Astringent

Astringent Powder to remove Thrushes.

IN all cases where thrushes appear the frog (if possible) should touch the ground.

The cleft in the frog must first be washed with a strong solution of common salt and water, and the cavity should then be filled with the astringent powder.

These remedies may be employed twice in the day.

Sedative

Sedative Powder for Inflammations of the Eyes, and local Injuries.

THE whole of this powder should be mixed in one quart of warm water, and the eye and lids washed twice in the day.

If any part be swelled and inflamed by kicks or blows, or strains, flannel moistened with the above solution should be constantly applied.

Hot oils of every description are
always

always pernicious when applied to an
inflamed part.

THE END.





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